

# Delegated Decision Report

Decision below £250k



<b>Subject:</b>	GMCA grant acceptance – heat network design works
<b>Decision maker: Senior Officer</b>	David Hughes, Director of Economy
<b>Decision maker: Cabinet Member</b>	
<b>Decision date:</b>	21 March 2025
<b>Report author:</b>	Andrew Hunt, Green Energy & Sustainability Manager
<b>Ward (s):</b>	

## Reason for decision

To accept a grant of £35,470 from GMCA for the purpose of completing a RIBA Stage 2 design feasibility study on Gallery Oldham for connection to the proposed Oldham Low Carbon Heat Network, as part of the wider heat network project development which the Council is funding with a Green Heat Network Fund (GHNF) grant already in place.

## Recommendation(s)

That the Council accept the grant.

## Background

Oldham Council is leading the development of a £27m Low Carbon Heat Network for Oldham Town Centre, funded by a grant from the Green Heat Network Fund which is already in place.

The heat network will constitute the “anchor project” for the procurement of an Oldham Green New Deal Delivery Partner (Strategic Energy Partner) which is funded separately via the GMCA Local Net Zero Accelerator programme.

The Council has commissioned feasibility work on a number of Council buildings to RIBA Stage 2 design to establish required works and associated costs to prepare the buildings for connection to the future heat network.

The GMCA grant funding will cover the cost of the feasibility study / RIBA 2 design for Gallery Oldham. The cost of the feasibility studies for the other sites will be covered by the existing GHNF grant.

The work will be carried out by Buro Happold who have already been procured and appointed by the Council to deliver RIBA Stage 3 design for the heat network project. The work will be delivered as part of their existing scope.

**Alternative option(s) to be considered** *(please give the reason(s) for recommendation(s))*

Option 1: Do not accept the grant funding. Under this option, the feasibility work will need to be funded from the existing GHNF grant

Option 2 (Recommended option): Accept the grant funding. Under this option, the GMCA funding will augment the existing GHNF funding, enabling the feasibility study for Gallery Oldham to be funded separately to the other sites.

**Consultation** *(include any conflict of interest declared by relevant Cabinet Member consulted)*

The Deputy Chief Executive (Place) has been consulted.

**Risks**

The risk of not accepting the grant funding is that the RIBA 2 design work for Gallery Oldham will need to be funded from the existing GHNF grant which will reduce the amount of that grant available for other works which may be required as part of the overall Commercialisation phase for the heat network.

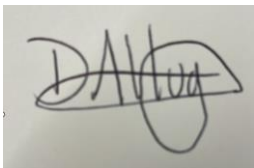
**Implications**

Financial	<p>The Council has been awarded £35,470 in grant funding from GMCA which is to be used to carry out a feasibility study on Gallery Oldham to determine the requirements for this building to be connected to the proposed Oldham Low Carbon Heat Network.</p> <p>The grant funding will be credited to R90854 Green Heat Network Fund. As the study is grant funded, there will be no impact on the revenue budget.</p> <p>Leonnice Wharton-Brown – Senior Accountant</p>
Legal	<p>Legal Services has reviewed the Grant Agreement with the GMCA and supports the acceptance of the grant monies. Acceptance of the Grant is in accordance with the Council's Contract Procedure Rules.</p> <p>Sukie Kaur - Solicitor</p>
Equality impact including implications for Children and Young People	N/A
Other	N/A

Has the relevant Legal Officer confirmed that the recommendations within this report are lawful and comply with the Council's Constitution?	Yes
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Has the relevant Finance Officer confirmed that any expenditure referred to within this report is consistent with the Council's budget?	Yes
Are any of the recommendations within this report contrary to the Policy Framework of the Council?	No

Report author sign-off	Andrew Hunt
Role	Green Energy & Sustainability Manager
Date of sign-off	21 March 2025

Approval	
Officer approval sign-off	 David Hughes
Role	Interim Director of Economy
Date of sign-off	24.03.25